

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

MAERTENS, et. al

Atty. Ref.: 2752-24

Serial No. 09/686,964

Group: 1641

Filed: October 12, 2000

Examiner: Tran

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March 13, 2002

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TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

AMENDMENT

Responsive to the Official Action dated February 13, 2002, entry and  
consideration of the following amendments and remarks are requested.

IN THE CLAIMS

Amend the claims as follows.

Cancel claims 1-35, without prejudice.

Add the following claims:

--36. (new) An immunoassay kit comprising a solid phase carrying, as antigen,  
an HCV NS3 protein which has been reduced by a reducing agent.

37. (new) An immunoassay kit comprising a solid phase carrying as antigen an  
HCV NS3 protein, which has been produced by adding a reducing agent in at least one  
of the following steps:

(i) coating of said solid phase with said antigen;

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Sub D3

03/18/2002 CW0111 00000101 09686964 1458.00 0P 280.00 0P  
01 FC:103  
02 FC:104